

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/008,265

Examiner

Wen-Tai Lin

Applicant(s)

BEAMS ET AL.

Art Unit

2154

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed on 6/29/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-41.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Wen-Tai Lin 9/7/05

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's Amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 C.F.R. 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee.

2. Authorization for the examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Kenneth Smolik, Reg. No. 44344, on September 6, 2005.

3. In the specification:

On page 2 of the preliminary amendment filed on 11/5/2001:

- i. at lines 3 and 5, replace "claims priority to" with – is a continuation of --; and
- ii. at lines 4 and 6 insert after "1999" – now abandoned --.

4. In the claims: please replace claims 1, 8-9, 12-13, 20, 23 and 32-33 to the following:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for establishing a collaborative training session for a plurality of users in a computer system environment, comprising the steps of:

receiving information indicative of a goal;

prompting the users to enter a response congruent with the goal;

receiving the response to the goal;

providing at least one user with feedback from at least one other user, wherein the feedback is designed to assist the at least one user to achieve the goal, and wherein the feedback is based on overall progress and on ~~at least one aspect of a specific response by the at least one user~~ specific responses, by the at least one user, that include correctness as objectively compared to prerecorded responses, voice volume, voice speed, and voice stress level; and

invoking a chat room to assist the users in achieving the goal.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for establishing a collaborative training session for a plurality of users, comprising the steps of:

receiving information indicative of a goal;

prompting the users to enter a response congruent with the goal;

receiving the response to the goal;

providing at least one user with feedback from at least one other user, wherein the feedback is designed to assist the at least one user to achieve the goal;

invoking a chat room to assist the users in achieving the goal; and

calculating a level of congruency between the response and a target response designed to achieve the goal, wherein the level of congruency is calculated by a virtual director engine, and wherein the virtual director engine calculates the level of congruency using a previous response of one of the plurality of users.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for establishing a collaborative training session for a plurality of users, comprising the steps of:

- receiving information indicative of a goal;
- prompting the users to enter a response congruent with the goal;
- receiving the response to the goal;
- providing at least one user with feedback from at least one other user, wherein the feedback is designed to assist the at least one user to achieve the goal;
- invoking a chat room to assist the users in achieving the goal; and
- calculating a level of congruency between the response and a target response designed to achieve the goal, wherein the level of congruency is calculated by a virtual director engine, and wherein the virtual director engine calculates the level of congruency with a success in a previous response of one of the plurality of users.

12. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for establishing a collaborative training session for a plurality of users comprising:

- logic that receives information indicative of a goal;
- logic that prompts the users to enter a response congruent with the goal;
- logic that receives the response to the goal;
- logic that provides feedback to at least one user from at least one other user, wherein the feedback is designed to assist the at least one user to achieve the goal, and wherein the feedback is based on overall progress and on ~~at least one aspect of a specific response by the at least one user~~ specific responses, by the at least one user, that include

correctness as objectively compared to prerecorded responses, voice volume, voice speed, and voice stress level; and

logic that invokes a chat room to assist the users in achieving the goal.

13. (Currently Amended) A computer program embodied on a storage computer-readable medium with computer-executable instructions that establishes a collaborative training session for a plurality of users, comprising:

a code segment that receives information indicative of a goal;

a code segment that prompts the users to enter a response congruent with the goal;

a code segment that receives the response to the goal;

a code segment that provides feedback to at least one user from at least one other user, wherein the feedback is designed to assist the at least one user to achieve the goal, and wherein the feedback is based on overall progress and on ~~at least one aspect of a specific response by the at least one user~~ specific responses, by the at least one user, that include correctness as objectively compared to prerecorded responses, voice volume, voice speed, and voice stress level; and

a code segment that invokes a chat room to assist the users in achieving the goal.

20. (Currently Amended) A computer program embodied on a computer-readable storage medium with computable-executable instructions that establishes a collaborative training session for a plurality of users, comprising:

a code segment that receives information indicative of a goal;

a code segment that prompts the users to enter a response congruent with the goal;
a code segment that receives the response to the goal;
a code segment that provides feedback to at least one user from at least one other user, wherein the feedback is designed to assist the at least one user to achieve the goal;
a code segment that invokes a chat room to assist the users in achieving the goal;
and
a code segment which calculates a level of congruency between the response and a target response designed to achieve the goal, wherein the level of congruency is calculated by a virtual director engine, and wherein the virtual director engine calculates the level of congruency with a success in a previous response of one of the plurality of users.

23. (Currently Amended) A method for establishing a goal directed educational system utilizing information from a production system in a computer system environment, comprising the steps of:

generating educational goals based on at least one production system;
coupling a server and one or more users;
coupling the server and the production system wherein the production system provides information;
integrating a production information into a simulation engine utilizing a system dynamics engine and generating information that motivates accomplishment of a goal;
evaluating progress toward the goal based on aspects of the production system utilizing the system dynamics engine, anticipated results and providing feedback that

further motivates accomplishment of the goal, wherein the feedback is based on overall progress and on ~~at least one aspect of a specific response by the at least one user~~ specific responses, by the at least one user, that include correctness as objectively compared to prerecorded responses, voice volume, voice speed, and voice stress level; and adjusting the feedback based on the one or more user's progress toward the goal.

32. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for establishing a goal directed educational system utilizing information from a production system, comprising:

logic that generates educational goals based on at least one production system;

logic that couples a server and one or more users;

logic that couples the server and the production system wherein the production system provides information;

logic that integrates a production information into a simulation engine utilizing a system dynamics engine and generating information that motivates accomplishment of the goal;

logic that evaluates progress toward the goal based on aspects of the production system utilizing the system dynamics engine, anticipated results and providing feedback that further motivates accomplishment of the goal, wherein the feedback is based on overall progress and on ~~at least one aspect of a specific response by the at least one user~~ specific responses, by the at least one user, that include correctness as objectively compared to prerecorded responses, voice volume, voice speed, and voice stress level; and

logic that adjusts the feedback based on the one or more user's progress toward the goal.

33. (Currently Amended) A computer program embodied on a computer-readable storage medium with computer-executable instructions that establishes a goal directed educational system utilizing information from a production system, comprising;

code that generates educational goals based on at least one production system;

code that couples a server and one or more users;

code that couples the server and the production system wherein the production system provides information;

code that integrates a production information into a simulation engine utilizing a system dynamics engine and generating information that motivates accomplishment of the goal;

code that evaluates progress toward the goal on aspects of the production system utilizing the system dynamics engine, anticipated results and providing feedback that further motivates accomplishment of the goal, wherein the feedback is based on overall progress and on ~~at least one aspect of a specific response by the at least one user~~ specific responses, by the at least one user, that include correctness as objectively compared to prerecorded responses, voice volume, voice speed, and voice stress level; and

code that adjusts the feedback based on the one or more user's progress toward the goal.

5. The Abstract has been amended to within 150 words (see the attached page).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Wen-Tai Lin whose telephone number is (571)272-3969. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:00-5:00) .

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Follansbee can be reached on (571)272-3964. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are as follows:

(571)273-8300 for official communications; and

(571)273-3969 for status inquires draft communication.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Wen-Tai Lin

September 7, 2005

Wen-Tai Lin
10/3/05